

Verb forms: gerunds and participles

A verb ending in *-ing* is either a present participle or a gerund. These two forms look identical. The difference is in their functions in a sentence.

He is fishing in the lake. (present participle)

Fishing is fun. (gerund)

Present participles are part of all continuous verb forms:

He is exercising. (present continuous)

They were swimming. (past continuous)

When the *-ing* form of a verb functions as a noun, it is called a gerund: *Skating is fun. I like swimming.*

Task 1: Use the prompts to write sentences.

1. go to the party / excellent idea

_____.

2. answer question / easy

_____.

3. travel / exciting experience

_____.

4. drive too fast / dangerous

_____.

5. do puzzles / good exercise for the brain

_____.

We can use present and past participles as adjectives: *Barking dogs seldom bite. He carried a lighted candle in his hand.*

Task 2: Write pp (for present participle) or g (for gerund) next to each sentence.

1. You are eating too much junk food these days. _____

2. Smoking is bad for your health. _____

3. She hates spending money. _____

4. They were waving their hands until he disappeared in the distance. _____

5. Can you teach me painting? _____

Task 3: Use the past participles of the verbs in the box to qualify the nouns in the sentences.

paint annoy develop write close

1. When they arrived the door was _____ .
2. The _____ test was very difficult.
3. There was a _____ sign on the wall.
4. The _____ neighbors complained to the authorities.
5. Most food is consumed by _____ countries.